



State of Tennessee

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 347

By Representatives Lois DeBerry, Camper, Towns, Parkinson, Hardaway, Johnnie Turner, Cooper, Richardson, Favors, John DeBerry, Kernell, Larry Miller, Armstrong, Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to recognize Essie Lee Murphy-Richardson on the occasion of her Retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those outstanding educators who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service to provide the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Essie Lee Murphy-Richardson of Sharpe Elementary School is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Murphy-Richardson will be taking a much deserved retirement after forty-three years of serving as a positive influence on so many young lives in the Memphis City School System; and

WHEREAS, born in Memphis on April 15, 1946, to Osie and Adell Murphy, Essie Murphy-Richardson was raised in Orange Mound; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Melrose High School, Mrs. Murphy-Richardson was an active member of the Charmettes, Quill and Scroll, Future Business Leaders of America, choir, cheerleading team, and the Annual Staff; she also served as a library helper; and

WHEREAS, upon her graduation from high school, Mrs. Murphy-Richardson attended LeMoyne-Owen College, from which she earned a Bachelor of Education degree; and

WHEREAS, she was hired as a teacher by the Memphis City School System in August 1968 and originally served as a fourth grade teacher at South Park Elementary; and

WHEREAS, during her forty-three years of estimable service, Mrs. Murphy-Richardson has served with acumen and alacrity as a teacher at South Park, Dunn Avenue, Norris, and Sharpe Elementary schools in grades one through six, most recently serving at Sharpe Elementary, the position from which she is retiring; and

WHEREAS, active in her community, Essie Murphy-Richardson has graciously donated her time and energies to numerous organizations, including the Memphis Education Association, which she has served as a faculty representative for twenty-five years and as a member of the Board of Directors; the Orange Mound Civic Organization, which she has served as Secretary; the Orange Mound Collaborative, which she has served as a board member and board chair; and the Orange Mound Progressive Club, which she has served as the club's Historian; and

WHEREAS, since the age of ten, she has been an active and devout member of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Orange Mound, where she has evinced her religious faith as a member of the Youth Choir, Adult Choir, Sunday School, Ruth Circle, Bible Study Class, and Usher Board; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Murphy-Richardson is also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, she was joined in marriage with Thomas Bernard Richardson II until his untimely death, and the couple's blessed union produced her beloved son, Thomas Bernard Richardson III; and

HJR 347

WHEREAS, in her free time, she enjoys reading, participating in church activities, crafting, and participating in community service projects; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Murphy-Richardson is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Essie Murphy-Richardson exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

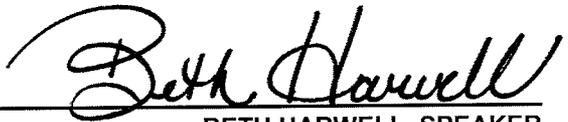
WHEREAS, Mrs. Murphy-Richardson truly epitomizes the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Essie Lee Murphy-Richardson our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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ADOPTED: MAY 2, 2011



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 5th day of May 2011



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR